



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR       | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.            | CONFIRMATION NO.       |
|---|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/807,420  | 03/23/2004  | Craig A. Barrile-Josephson | P03137                         | 3853                   |
| 23702   | 7590        | 09/09/2008                 |                                |                        |
| Bausch & Lomb Incorporated<br>One Bausch & Lomb Place<br>Rochester, NY 14604-2701 |             |                            | EXAMINER<br>MENDOZA, MICHAEL G |                        |
|   |             |                            | ART UNIT<br>3734               | PAPER NUMBER           |
|   |             |                            | MAIL DATE<br>09/09/2008        | DELIVERY MODE<br>PAPER |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |                                       |   |  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/807,420  | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>BARRILE-JOSEPHSON ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>MICHAEL G. MENDOZA | <b>Art Unit</b><br>3734                         |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/18/2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 25-27 and 37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-8, 10, 11, 19-22, 28-31 and 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 5, 9, 12-18, 24, and 32-35 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Claim 17 recites the limitation "the slot" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 19-21, 28, 29, 31, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Amano et al. 6277134.

6. Amano et al. teaches a microkeratome for use in ophthalmic surgery comprising:  
a bar-link drive; a cutting-head; a fixation ring; wherein the bar-link drive moves the cutting-head at least partially across the fixation ring; a controller (61); wherein the drive includes a left/right selector that is alternately moveable between a start position of the drive for a patient's left eye and a start position for a patient's right eye (col. 6, lines 13-

17); a cutting-head locator; a translation stop (50); a motor (21); a passage from a bottom surface of the ring and with the ring for connection to a vacuum source (61);

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 3 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano et al.

9. Amano et al. teaches the microkeratome of claim 1. It should be noted that Amano et al. fails to teach a snap-on connector. Amano et al. teaches the use of thumb screws (23) as connectors. However, it is well known in the art of connectors to use snaps as an alternative to screws as a means for quickly connecting and disconnecting parts. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use snaps as opposed to screws for quickly connecting/disconnecting parts.

10. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amano et al. in view of Schwind 5779723.

11. Amano et al. teaches the microkeratome of claim 1. It should be noted that Amano et al. fails to teach a second motor for oscillating a blade.

12. Schwind teaches a microkeratome that includes a first motor for driving and a second motor for oscillating a blade (col. 2, lines 29-50). Therefore, it would have been

Art Unit: 3734

obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Amano et al. in view of Schwind to include a second motor for oscillating for easier cutting.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

13. Claims 4, 5, 12-18, 23, 24, and 32-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL G. MENDOZA whose telephone number is (571)272-4698. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on (571) 272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3734

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. G. M./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3734

/Todd E Manahan/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3731